

Abstract of the Disclosure

A recombinant or isolated integrin heterodimer comprising a novel subunit $\alpha 10$ in association with a subunit β is described. The $\alpha 10$ integrin may be purified from bovine chondrocytes on a collagen-type-II affinity column. The integrin or the subunit $\alpha 10$ can be used as marker or target of all types of cells, e.g. of chondrocytes, osteoblasts and fibroblasts. The integrin or subunit $\alpha 10$ thereof can be used as marker or target in different physiological or therapeutic methods. They can also be used as active ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines.

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